

Claims

1. A surgical device comprising:-

5 a wound retractor comprising:-

a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening; and

10 a proximal member for location externally of a wound opening;

the proximal member being movable relative to the retracting member to shorten the axial extent of the retracting member to laterally retract a wound opening; and

15 means to seal a retracted wound opening;

the sealing means being integral with the wound retractor.

20 2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the proximal member comprises an annular ring means.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the annular ring means comprises an inner ring and an outer ring between which the retracting member may be led.

25 4. A device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the inner ring defines a projection for location in a complementary recess of the outer ring with the retracting member located therebetween.

30 5. A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the inner ring is a relatively loose fit in the recess of the outer ring.

6. A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the inner ring is a relatively tight fit in the recess of the outer ring to grip the retracting member therebetween.
7. A device as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6 wherein at least portion of one of the rings is movable from a rest position in which the retracting member is substantially clamped between the rings to a release position in which at least portion of the retracting member is movable relative to the rings.
8. A device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the sealing means comprises a chamber for receiving pressurised fluid to seal a retracted wound opening.
9. A device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the sealing means comprises a sleeve having an inner sleeve section and an outer sleeve section with the chamber defined between the inner and outer sleeve sections.
10. A device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the sleeve is evertable upon advancement of an object through the sleeve.
11. A surgical device comprising:-

a retracting member movable from an insertion configuration to a retracting configuration to retract laterally a wound opening; and

a sleeve integral with the retracting member;

the sleeve having an inner sleeve section and an outer sleeve section with a chamber for receiving pressurised fluid between the inner and outer sleeve sections to seal a retracted wound opening;

the sleeve being evertable upon advancement of an object through the sleeve to facilitate sealed access through a retracted wound opening.

- 5 12. A device as claimed in any of claims 9 to 11 wherein the retracting member is provided by at least portion of the outer sleeve section.
13. A device as claimed in any of claims 9 to 12 wherein the sleeve is turned axially back on itself to define the sleeve sections.
- 10 14. A device as claimed in any of claims 9 to 13 wherein the outer sleeve section is substantially cylindrical, and the inner sleeve section is twisted and of the same untwisted diameter as that of the outer sleeve section.
- 15 15. A device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the device comprises a distal member coupled to a distal end of the retracting member for insertion into a wound opening.
16. A device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the distal member is of a resilient material.
- 20 17. A device as claimed in claim 15 or 16 wherein the distal member comprises an O-ring.
- 25 18. A surgical device comprising:-  
  
a retracting member movable from an insertion configuration to a retracting configuration to retract laterally a wound opening; and  
  
means to seal a retracted wound opening;  
  
30 the retracting member being integral with the sealing means.

19. A surgical device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

5 20. A wound retractor comprising:-

a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening;

a proximal member for location externally of a wound opening;

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the proximal member being movable relative to the retracting member to shorten the axial extent of the retracting member to laterally retract a wound opening; and

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a chamber for receiving pressurised fluid to maintain a wound opening retracted.

21. A retractor as claimed in claim 20 wherein the chamber is integral with the retracting member.

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22. A retractor as claimed in claim 20 or 21 wherein the chamber overlaps the proximal member to maintain a wound opening retracted.

23. A retractor as claimed in claim 22 wherein the chamber overlaps the proximal member at a proximal side of the proximal member.

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24. A wound retractor substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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25. A method of performing a surgical procedure, the method comprising the steps of:-

inserting a surgical device into a wound opening;

moving at least part of the surgical device laterally to retract the wound  
opening; and

inflating at least part of the surgical device to maintain the wound  
opening retracted.

26. A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the step of inflating at least part of  
the surgical device effects a seal of the retracted wound opening.
27. A method of performing a surgical procedure substantially as hereinbefore  
described with reference to the accompanying drawings.